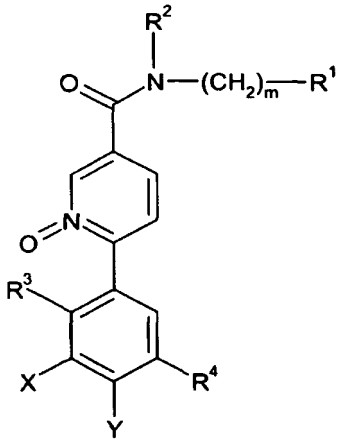
CLAIMS

1. A compound of formula (I):



(I)

wherein

R^1 is selected from hydrogen, C_{1-6}alkyl optionally substituted by up to three groups independently selected from C_{1-6}alkoxy, halogen and hydroxy, C_{2-6}alkenyl, C_{3-7}cycloalkyl optionally substituted by one or more C_{1-6}alkyl groups, phenyl optionally substituted by up to three groups independently selected from R^5 and R^6, and heteroaryl optionally substituted by up to three groups independently selected from R^5 and R^6,

R^2 is selected from hydrogen, C_{1-6}alkyl and $-(CH_2)_q-C_{3-7}$cycloalkyl optionally substituted by one or more C_{1-6}alkyl groups,

or $(CH_2)_mR^1$ and R^2, together with the nitrogen atom to which they are bound, form a four- to six-membered heterocyclic ring optionally substituted by up to three C_{1-6}alkyl groups;

R^3 is chloro or methyl;

R^4 is the group $-NH-CO-R^7$ or $-CO-NH-(CH_2)_q-R^8$;

R^5 is selected from C_{1-6}alkyl, C_{1-6}alkoxy, $-(CH_2)_q-C_{3-7}$cycloalkyl optionally substituted by one or more C_{1-6}alkyl groups, $-CONR^9R^{10}$, $-NHCOR^{10}$, $-SO_2NHR^9$, $-(CH_2)_sNHSO_2R^{10}$, halogen, CN, OH, $-(CH_2)_sNR^{11}R^{12}$, and trifluoromethyl;

R^6 is selected from C_{1-6}alkyl, C_{1-6}alkoxy, halogen, trifluoromethyl and $-(CH_2)_sNR^{11}R^{12}$;

R^7 is selected from hydrogen, C_{1-6}alkyl, $-(CH_2)_q-C_{3-7}$cycloalkyl optionally substituted by one or more C_{1-6}alkyl groups, trifluoromethyl, $-(CH_2)_r$heteroaryl optionally substituted by R^{13} and/or R^{14}, and $-(CH_2)_r$phenyl optionally substituted by R^{13} and/or R^{14};

R^8 is selected from hydrogen, C_{1-6}alkyl, C_{3-7}cycloalkyl optionally substituted by one or more C_{1-6}alkyl groups, $CONHR^9$, phenyl optionally substituted by R^{13} and/or R^{14}, and heteroaryl optionally substituted by R^{13} and/or R^{14};

R^9 and R^{10} are each independently selected from hydrogen and C_{1-6}alkyl,

or R^9 and R^{10}, together with the nitrogen atom to which they are bound, form a five- to six-membered heterocyclic ring optionally containing one additional heteroatom selected from oxygen, sulfur and N-R^{15}, wherein the ring may be substituted by up to two C_{1-6}alkyl groups;

R^{11} is selected from hydrogen, C_{1-6}alkyl and -$(CH_2)_q$-C_{3-7}cycloalkyl optionally substituted by one or more C_{1-6}alkyl groups,

R^{12} is selected from hydrogen and C_{1-6}alkyl,

or R^{11} and R^{12}, together with the nitrogen atom to which they are bound, form a five or six-membered heterocyclic ring optionally containing one additional heteroatom selected from oxygen, sulfur and N-R^{15};

R^{13} is selected from C_{1-6}alkyl, C_{1-6}alkoxy, -$(CH_2)_q$-C_{3-7}cycloalkyl optionally substituted by one or more C_{1-6}alkyl groups, -$CONR^9R^{10}$, -$NHCOR^{10}$, halogen, CN, -$(CH_2)_sNR^{11}R^{12}$, trifluoromethyl, phenyl optionally substituted by one or more R^{14} groups and heteroaryl optionally substituted by one or more R^{14} groups;

R^{14} is selected from C_{1-6}alkyl, C_{1-6}alkoxy, halogen, trifluoromethyl and -$NR^{11}R^{12}$;

R^{15} is selected from hydrogen and methyl;

X and Y are each independently selected from hydrogen, methyl and halogen;

m is selected from 0, 1, 2, 3 and 4, wherein each carbon atom of the resulting carbon chain may be optionally substituted with up to two groups selected independently from C_{1-6}alkyl and halogen;

q is selected from 0, 1 and 2;

r is selected from 0 and 1; and

s is selected from 0, 1, 2 and 3;

or a pharmaceutically acceptable derivative thereof.

2. A compound according to claim 1 wherein R^1 is selected from C_{1-6}alkyl optionally substituted by up to three groups independently selected from C_{1-6}alkoxy, halogen and hydroxy, and phenyl optionally substituted by up to three groups independently selected from R^5 and R^6.

3. A compound according to claim 1 or claim 2 wherein R^2 is hydrogen.

4. A compound according to any one of the preceding claims wherein R^3 is methyl.

5. A compound according to any one of the preceding claims wherein X is fluorine.

6. A compound according to any one of the preceding claims wherein R^4 is -CO-NH-$(CH_2)_q$-R^8.

7. A compound according to any one of the preceding claims wherein R^8 is C_{3-6}cycloalkyl optionally substituted by one or more C_{1-6}alkyl groups.

8. A compound according to claim 1 or a pharmaceutically acceptable derivative thereof substantially as hereinbefore defined with reference to any one of Examples 1 to 20.

9 A compound according to any one of the preceding claims selected from:
6-{5-[(cyclopropylamino)carbonyl]-3-fluoro-2-methylphenyl}-*N*-(2,2-dimethylpropyl)-3-pyridinecarboxamide 1-oxide;
6-{5-[(cyclopropylamino)carbonyl]-3-fluoro-2-methylphenyl}-*N*-[(1*R*)-1,2,2-trimethylpropyl]-3-pyridinecarboxamide 1-oxide;
6-{5-[(cyclopropylamino)carbonyl]-3-fluoro-2-methylphenyl}-*N*-(1,1-dimethylpropyl)-3-pyridinecarboxamide 1-oxide;
6-{5-[(cyclopropylamino)carbonyl]-3-fluoro-2-methylphenyl}-*N*-(1-ethylpropyl)-3-pyridinecarboxamide 1-oxide;
6-{5-[(cyclopropylamino)carbonyl]-3-fluoro-2-methylphenyl}-*N*-[(1*S*)-1,2,2-trimethylpropyl]-3-pyridinecarboxamide 1-oxide;
6-{5-[(cyclopropylamino)carbonyl]-3-fluoro-2-methylphenyl}-*N*-[(1*R*)-1,2-dimethylpropyl]-3-pyridinecarboxamide 1-oxide;
6-{5-[(cyclopropylamino)carbonyl]-3-fluoro-2-methylphenyl}-*N*-[(1*S*)-1,2-dimethylpropyl]-3-pyridinecarboxamide 1-oxide; and
6-{5-[(cyclopropylamino)carbonyl]-3-fluoro-2-methylphenyl}-*N*-[(3,4-dimethylphenyl)methyl]-3-pyridinecarboxamide 1-oxide;
and pharmaceutically acceptable derivatives thereof.

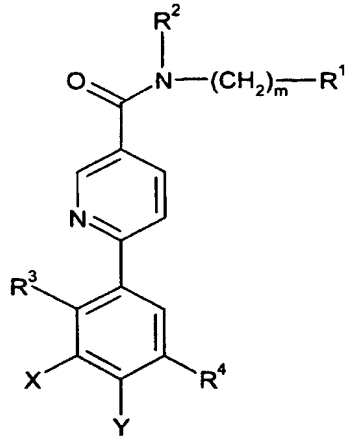
10. A pharmaceutical composition comprising at least one compound as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 9 or a pharmaceutically acceptable derivative thereof in association with one or more pharmaceutically acceptable excipients, diluents and/or carriers.

11. A method for treating a condition or disease state mediated by p38 kinase activity or mediated by cytokines produced by the activity of p38 kinase comprising administering to a patient in need thereof a compound as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 9 or a pharmaceutically acceptable derivative thereof.

12. A compound as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 9 or a pharmaceutically acceptable derivative thereof for use in therapy.

13. Use of a compound as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 9 or a pharmaceutically acceptable derivative thereof in the manufacture of a medicament for use in the treatment of a condition or disease state mediated by p38 kinase activity or mediated by cytokines produced by the activity of p38 kinase.

14. A process for preparing a compound of formula (I) as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 9 or a pharmaceutically acceptable derivative thereof which comprises reacting compound of formula (II)



(II)

in which R^1, R^2, R^3, R^4, X, Y and m are as defined in claim 1, with an oxidising agent.